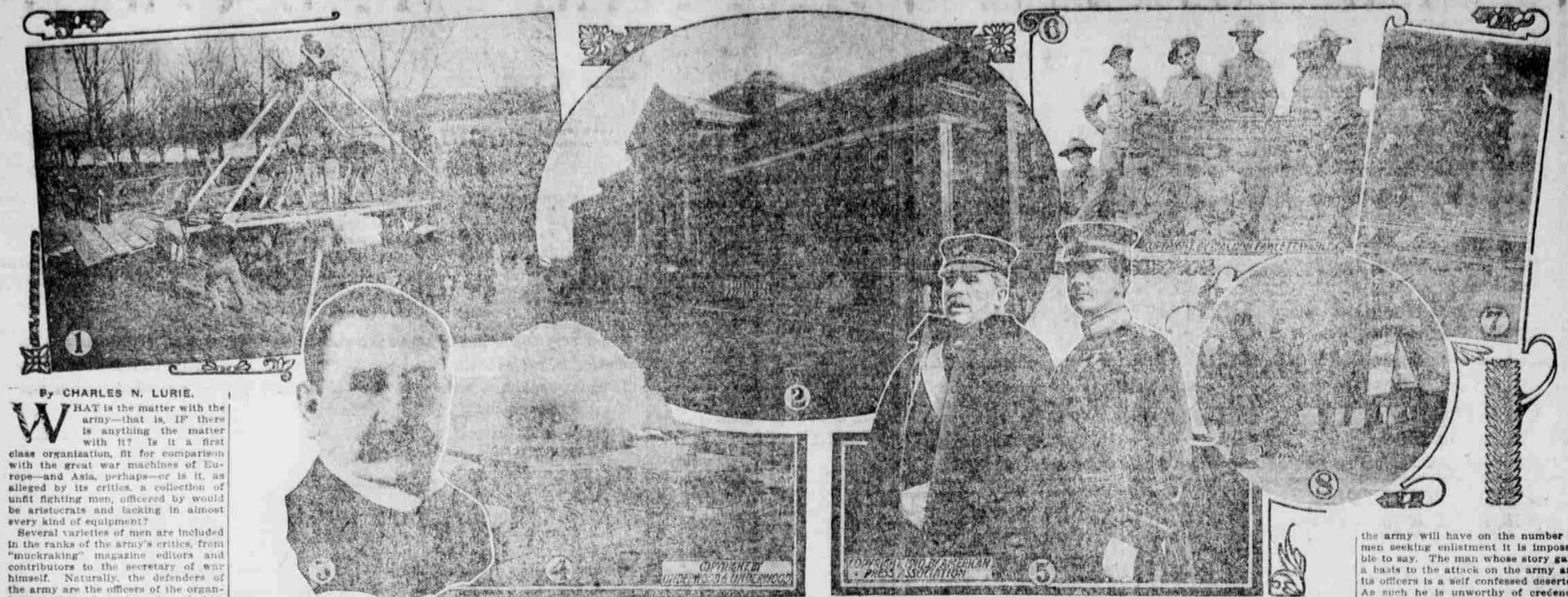


WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THE ARMY?



1—Field work of soldiers: building bridge. 2—Army war college in Washington. 3—Secretary of War Dickenson. 4—Coast defense: firing the big guns. 5—General Leonard Wood, chief of staff United States army, and aid. 6—Balloon corps. 7—Horsemanship stunt, United States army officer. 8—Army recruiting station in city park.

By CHARLES N. LURIE.

WHAT is the matter with the army—that is, if there is anything the matter with it? Is it a first class organization, fit for comparison with the great war machines of Europe—and Asia, perhaps—or is it, as alleged by its critics, a collection of untrained fighting men, officered by would be aristocrats and lacking in almost every kind of equipment?

Several varieties of men are included in the ranks of the army's critics, from "muckraking" magazine editors and contributors to the secretary of war himself. Naturally, the defenders of the army are the officers of the organization themselves, but they find it difficult to hold their position, attacked as they are in front by the civilian head of the service and certain high officers and in the flank and rear by deserters and by writers whose biasness in the exposure of so called evil conditions. When the secretary of war declares that the regular army is deficient in numbers in all arms, poorly equipped, ill organized and much too widely scattered, when a colonel asserts that the army is not prepared for a fight, even with a tenth rate power, and that a first class nation could "eat us alive," when the war department starts training a corps of surgeons as experts on mental diseases in order to prevent a "dangerous increase of insanity" in the army, what is the country to believe about the army, especially in view of the fact that congress is to appropriate \$129,674,378 for the military establishment for the current fiscal year?

Is there "Something Rotten" in the Army?

Two recent incidents have done much to create in the public mind the impression that there is "something rotten" in the state of the army. The first was the rejection by the house of representatives of a "confidential" report by Secretary of War Dickenson. The second was the publication in a widely circulated magazine of an interview with a man said to be an in-

time deserter from the army, in which it was alleged that his desertion was due to such ill treatment by the officers that submission to it was impossible. The Dickenson report was replaced by another, toned down to make it fit for widespread publication. The magazine interview was made the basis of an investigation by army officers whose report condemned the assertions of the deserter as totally unfounded. But the unfavorable public impression remained.

Secretary Dickenson's report said:

"In my opinion this country cannot, so far as its land forces are concerned, be considered in a state of readiness for defense or to repel invasion if attacked on our coast by any first class power having the shipping to transport and the navy to protect the transit of her armed forces over the sea."

"An enemy operating on the offensive against our Atlantic and gulf or Pacific coasts would have a wide choice of objectives and points of landing; he would manifestly keep us ignorant as to the point of attack selected and would attempt to make his lodgment on the coast by attacking the coast defenses from the front, by

landing out of range of the coast defense guns and attacking the fortifications from the rear or by a combination of both methods."

Faults of the Army Pointed Out.

"A conservative estimate of the forces which could be transported in a single expedition over the Atlantic to our coast by a first class power would be 100,000 men. * * * To meet this requirement we would probably have available in all parts of the United States a total force of 114,500 mobile troops (32,500 regulars and 82,000 organized militia). This force has not the proper proportion of infantry, cavalry, field artillery, engineers, signal corps and sanitary troops; it is not fully equipped for field service; it, with the exception of parts of the militia, entirely lacking in organization into the higher tactical units, brigades and divisions; is lacking in many essentials of supply for operations in the field; it could not be assembled in proper positions ready for field operations in a less period than thirty days, and there being no reserves of trained men, either in the regular army or the militia, it could not be augmented excepting by the slow process of voluntary enlistments or conscription."

In other words, Secretary Dickenson means that our army is worthless for the purposes of national defense. We are attempting the process described so graphically by Kipling, speaking in like strain about Great Britain, as "muddling through," and depending, as our British kinsmen are said to depend in like case, upon the branch of the national defense which has its existence and its sphere of action upon the water.

It is reassuring to note that President Taft does not consider the situation alarming. He sees nothing in our international relationships to warrant any fear of war with any foreign power. The movement for international peace is moving ahead, and Americans are standing in the forefront of the crusade. But it is not soothing to American pride to be told that this country, which ranks among the foremost in so many respects, is classed with Serbia or Roumania or Greece as a military power. To make up an army proportionate to the size of our nation and its 101,000,000 population, we need about 800,000 more soldiers, said the secretary, and we need guns and ammunition and provisions and equipment for them. As a corollary,

of course, we must raise the money to buy these arms and this equipment and to pay these men.

We Have Always Been Nonmilitary.

It is a safe guess that congress will not provide the money for any such increase in the army, even if the sentiment of the country would sustain its representatives in any such action. Throughout our history as a nation we have lagged behind—happily, according to most persons—in the international race for armament that has given Germany a standing army of 630,000 men, France 600,000 soldiers, Russia a standing force of 1,200,000 men and Great Britain the comparatively small force of 237,000, which is still immense compared to our 80,000 men.

In naval power, however, the United States ranks second to Great Britain and ahead of Germany. When Germany's present naval plans are carried to completion she will be second to her rival across the North sea, while we shall have fallen to third place.

Granting the advisability of increasing the size of our army, its heads are puzzled by the question of obtaining the needed men. The physical and

mental tests prescribed by the army regulations for admission to the ranks are rigorous, so much so, in fact, that in the past fiscal year the recruiting officers rejected 51,378 of the 100,596 men who presented themselves for enlistment. More than 80 per cent of the intending soldiers were thus rejected as lacking in mental, moral or physical qualifications. Accurate statistics as to other countries are lacking in regard to this matter, but it is probably safe to assume that the American standard is higher than that of any other country in which voluntary enlistment is relied upon to fill the ranks of the army depleted by expired enlistments, desertion, discharge for disability, etc. It should be noted, however, that of the 51,378 rejections "12,428, or about 12 per cent, were caused by lack of prior military service which, from March 1, 1910, until after the end of the fiscal year, was prescribed as a necessary qualification for enlistment, in order to bring about the reduction ordered by the president in the enlisted strength of the army to not exceeding 80,000."

Army Men Deny Deserter's Story.

Just how much effect the recent "revelations" of alleged conditions in

the army will have on the number of men seeking enlistment it is impossible to say. The man whose story gave a basis to the attack on the army and its officers is a self confessed deserter. As such he is unworthy of credence, according to the army officers who have investigated his story and have declared it without any foundation in fact. He spoke of intolerably outrageous conditions in the army, asserting that the enlisted men were treated without consideration by the officers, received food unfit for human consumption, were compelled to do dirty menial work and, in short, were shamefully mistreated. These conditions are declared, by inference, to exist throughout the service and furnish sufficient grounds for the reluctance of self respecting young Americans to enter the service. There have been letters in the newspapers from enlisted men and noncommissioned officers denying the charges, and it is declared by many unprejudiced observers that our men are better housed, fed and clothed than any other soldiers.

The magazine editor who wrote and stood sponsor for the story of the deserter asserts that the army officials who looked into his charges and declared them a libel on the army do not like his assertion that there were 50,000 desertions from the army in the past twelve years. But the secretary of the army reports that "it is gratifying to be able to report that the number of desertions in the past fiscal year was 39,6 per cent less than for the preceding year and that the 3,444 desertions give a percentage of 3.66 for 1910 against 4.97 for 1909."

KUBELIK COMING WITH HIS \$50,000 (?) VIOLIN

JAN KUBELIK, the wonderful Bohemian violinist, the young musician who set all our critics searching for new words just ten years ago, is coming to us again. He will play, of course, on the instrument which has brought him such abundance of fame and wealth. He will bring with him the violin from which he draws forth tones which so few others can produce. And, best of all, he will probably bring with him the world famous "Emperor" Stradivarius, for which he is said to have paid the truly enormous sum of \$10,000, almost \$50,000.

Now, \$50,000 is a great sum of money to give for a violin, even for an instrument of which an English critic said: "The unsurpassed sonority and delicacy of its tone fully justify its position as the premier violin now in existence."

Possibly Kubelik paid \$10,000 for the instrument. It was so asserted recently on good authority on the other side, but on the other hand, there is the very highest American authority for saying that in all likelihood no such sum of money passed hands when the "Emperor" was sold. There is too great a gap between the amount named and the sums which have been paid in other years for instruments undoubtedly made by Stradivarius, Guarnerius, Amati, Stainer, Linot, Magini and other masters of the art of violin building. The gentleman quoted, who knows more about violins probably than any other man in America, being himself a master of violins of the very highest class, declares that he has examples of the great old Italian masters for sale at prices around the \$2,000 or \$2,500 mark. Only a few years ago the great Hawley collection, comprising twelve old Italian violins, was sold to a Chicago music house for about \$25,000. So it may almost be inferred that Kubelik, who is not lacking in business sense even if he is one of the world's greatest living artists, probably did not pay \$10,000 for the "Emperor," but he did unquestionably pay a high price, running into the thousands, otherwise the English possessors of the violin would not have parted with it. The good old days when the owners of precious old fiddles presented them to players in an ecstasy of enthusiasm seem to have passed away.

There is no such thing as a fixed market price for a genuine old Italian violin, demonstrating by its tone and appearance its manufacture by one of the old masters. When one of them turns up the fortunate possessor takes as many hundreds or thousands as he can get, and the man to whom the instrument is offered gives as few as he may. The existence of a "trust" or

"gentlemen's agreement" among the well known dealers of Europe is suspected. Here in America the fixing of excessively high prices on rare old violins is hampered by the absence of interest in violins by very wealthy collectors. Men with the means to acquire the fine old violins turn their attention to other fields of art. One of the few millionaire violin enthusiasts of this country passed away recently when Henry O. Havemeyer died. He left a collection of violins appraised at \$29,400, of which \$12,000 was the value set upon his finest fiddle, one of the best known in the world, a Guar-

man who stands, at the age of thirty-one, among the world's greatest musicians. America took him to its heart when he first came here ten years ago, and the favorable impression was confirmed by his subsequent visit. He will rank as one of the world's greatest violinists of all time, for, in the opinion of many critics, no player in the long history of the violin has surpassed him, especially in technique. His wonderful mastery of his instrument first held the attention of American judges of music, and in their wonderment and amazement they lost sight of his tone qualities and the fervor and soul which he put into his work. All but a few laid stress on his technique, not of course to the disparagement, but to the neglect of the other qualities which go to make up a master of the "most beautiful instrument." But the



KUBELIK AND HIS NEW VIOLIN.

nerius called the "King Joseph." The next highest was a Stradivarius, valued at \$5,000, and another Guarnerius was worth, it is believed, \$4,000. According to the New York authority already quoted twice, among some connoisseurs Guarnerius ranks higher as a violin maker than even the renowned Stradivarius. The "King Joseph" Guarnerius is probably the finest example of its famous maker in all the world and possibly finer than Kubelik's new "Strad."

But it must truly be a wonderful instrument to have attracted the notice and aroused the desire of the young

second visit opened the eyes and minds and hearts of the critics to the fact that behind the strong, almost miraculously trained hands of Kubelik lay a soul which drew from the wood and strings music of a quality to make men and women weep or smile at his will.

Kubelik's first visit to America was marked by many newspaper jests about his heart affairs. He was "wedded to his art." It was said, but soon thereafter he found his ideal in a young noblewoman of Bohemia, his own country. He is the father of two beautiful twin daughters and another baby.

ARTHUR J. BRUNTON.

ITALY AND AMERICA BOTH WARRING ON THE ITALIAN CRIMINAL

ORDINARILY a big criminal trial in Italy with no evident close connection with the United States would excite little interest in this country. We have enough and to spare of affairs of the sort of our own. But the coming trial of more than thirty members of the Camorra in Viterbo, Italy, is an affair the ramifications of which extend across the Mediterranean sea and the Atlantic ocean and include in their spread many American cities. Wherever the police and the public have been forced to take cognizance of the operations of the Black Hand there the trial of the Camorristas in Viterbo should be considered a matter of importance.

Just how much connection there is between the operations of the Black Hand in America and the nefarious doings of the Camorra, the Mafia and other secret criminal societies in Italy the best informed police will not or cannot say. Naturally secrecy must be fought with secrecy, and the police are chary about disclosing the extent of their information. Success in the warfare against the Black Hand is still too new for the police of our big cities to pat themselves on the back and say they see light ahead after a long period of darkness. Within one week very recently the police of New York raided a "Black Hand" block in New York, five detectives were detailed to guard the house of a wealthy Chicago grocer threatened with murder as the penalty of refusing to yield to blackmail demands, and the Pittsburgh authorities unearthed in a cabin in a lonely section of the city what is believed to be an authentic copy of the rules governing the Black Hand.

Much of the recent success in the police warfare on the Black Hand is credited to the efforts of William J. Flynn, deputy police commissioner of New York city, who was chief of that post by Mayor Gaynor in recognition of his success while doing detective work for the United States government. For a dozen years Flynn has been known as one of the best of the federal secret service men. In his fight against the counterfeiters of Italian extraction he gained an insight into their methods which has served him well in his new post. He has already achieved great success in his office than most of his predecessors did in months of years. Among Flynn's exploits has been the sending away of a score of offenders under sentences of twenty-five to fifty years.

Possibly his greatest achievement is the infiltrating into the ranks of the Italian speaking people of New York and other cities of confidence in the

legal authorities. Heretofore the obtaining of evidence or complicity against blackmailers, counterfeiters, bomb throwers, thieves, kidnapers and murderers has been always difficult and frequently impossible.

For many years the Italian government has been waging warfare on the Mafia, which operates mainly in Sicily, and the Camorra, the field of which has been the provinces in southern Italy which formed the old kingdom of Naples. The center and stronghold of the latter society has been Naples. More than four years ago, in June, 1906, the murdered body of a member of the Camorra was found on the seashore near Naples, and a few hours

since it is a cardinal point of the compact which exists among the members never to appeal to the law. For minor infractions of their rules they have other penalties, such as disfigurement, flogging, suspension from profitable

employment, etc. Since the murders of Cuocolo and his wife the Italian government has been trying to effect the punishment of the criminals. At last enough evidence has been obtained to bring the suspects to trial. It is expected that the trials will extend over a period of from four to six months. Some of the leading men of the Camorra are involved. One of them is the notorious Enrico Alfano, known as Erricone, who was arrested in New York in April, 1907, by Detective Sergeant Petrosino, the famous Italian detective, later murdered in Palermo. The trial of the Camorristas in Viterbo may throw light upon the murder of Petrosino, which has baffled the police of Italy and the United States.

VICTOR CAPELLO.



WILLIAM J. FLYNN, Foe OF THE BLACK HAND.